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1ST DISTRICT, ILLINOIS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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To My Constituents:

Healthcare is such a vital issue and I've heard from many of you who have shared your thoughts and concerns regarding the repeal of Affordable Care Act (Obamacare). As your representative in Congress, I find it extremely important for my constituents to be able to contact me to express their concerns on matters of importance to them. Your communication allows me to better represent you and our district.

There has been much debate regarding the strengths and weaknesses of Obamacare. While I agree that it needs improvement, depriving 24 million Americans of affordable healthcare is not the solution. As you may know, Obamacare contains provisions intended to allow more Americans to access quality healthcare by increasing the primary care and public health workforce, promoting preventive services, and strengthening quality controls, among other things.

The Affordable Healthcare Act (Trumpcare) being pushed by the Republicans has many deficiencies including eliminating coverage for preexisting conditions and undoing Medicaid expansion; which are just a sampling of what is important to so many individuals in our district. Additionally, the bill would establish a late-enrollment penalty for individuals who do not maintain health insurance coverage and would create new funding streams that, while intended to mitigate its negative effects, do not go far enough and would continue to deprive too many Americans of the healthcare coverage they now have.

On average, it costs between \$2,000–\$10,000 daily if you are hospitalized. By providing insurance for millions, making preventive care free, and changing how hospitals treat patients, Obamacare allows more people to be treated before they need expensive emergency room care. In contrast, Trumpcare allows insurers to charge more to those with preexisting conditions (which can include congenital disorders, accident related trauma, and pregnancy). So, once again, insurers will be allowed to charge people with preexisting conditions higher premiums just as they did before Obamacare. In short, American families lose and insurance companies win.

Our state and community have seen the positive impacts of Obamacare. Impacts that Trumpcare seeks to undo. In Illinois, since passage of the Affordable Care Act, there has been a 40% reduction in the uninsured population. In Cook County, the second largest county in the nation, prior to passage of Obamacare the uninsured population was 20%, that number is now 5%.

It is my firm belief that access to healthcare is not a privilege, but a right. Therefore, I am in strong opposition to the Affordable Healthcare Act (Trumpcare) and will continue to fight any efforts to undermine Americans' healthcare. For the reasons I have explained here, I will be voting NO on this bill and any others like it, should they be brought up for a vote.